

FANTASTIC CRUSADER FROM MARS!

No. 10 10c



Lars of Mars

LARS OF MARS

1451

ANC



Martian Might Battles...

TERROR FROM THE SKY!



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DO PEOPLE LIVE ON MARS?

CLOSEST PLANET TO THE EARTH, RED MARS OWNS TWO MOONS, DEIMOS AND PHOBOS, POLAR CAPS OF SNOW, AND GREEN VEGETATION THAT BLANKET PARTS OF ITS SURFACE. CLOUDS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED ON MARS, GIVING RISE TO THE SPECULATION THAT IT HAS AN ATMOSPHERE, AND SO, IS THE LIKELIEST OF ALL PLANETS, NEXT TO THE EARTH ITSELF, TO SUPPORT LIFE!

IN 1877, GIOVANNI SCHIAPARELLI DISCOVERED THE FAMOUS "CANALS" OF MARS - DEFINITE LINES INDICATING A POSSIBLE LINK OF WATERWAYS, APPARENTLY MAN-MADE...

AM I SEEING THINGS? ACTUAL CANALS! OBVIOUSLY BUILT TO CARRY MELTING SNOW, IN THE FORM OF WATER, AWAY FROM THE ICE CAPS AT THE POLES!

MARS RECEIVES ITS REDDISH TINT FROM THE VAST EXTENT OF RED DESERT SANDS THAT BLOW ETERNALLY ACROSS ITS SURFACE.

THE GREAT BRITISH NOVELIST, H.G. WELLS, FIRST BROUGHT THE MEN FROM MARS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD IN HIS DRAMATIC NOVEL, "THE WAR OF THE WORLDS," WHEREIN THE EARTH IS INVADIED BY MARTIANS...

AS RECENTLY AS 1938, DRAMATIC ACTOR ORSON WELLES THREW THE ENTIRE EASTERN SEABOARD OF THE UNITED STATES INTO A FRENZY WITH HIS BROADCAST OF THIS NOVEL.

WHERE ARE THEY?

IS THERE ANY WORD OF THEM?

WHAT'LL THEY DO TO US?

MEN ACTUALLY SNATCHED UP RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS - MARCHED DOWN COUNTRY ROADS - PREPARED TO DEFEND THEIR PLANET AGAINST THE MEN FROM MARS!

RADIO SAID THEY LANDED NEAR HERE!

WE'LL TEACH 'EM TO INVADERS THE GOOD OLD U.S.A.

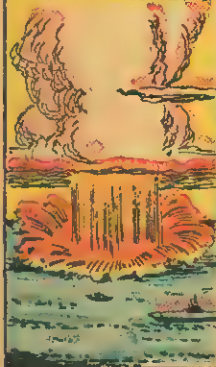
IMAGINATION HAS PICTURED THE MARTIAN AS TRULY SOMETHING OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD BUT, THE STRANGE FACT IS, TRUTH MAY BE JUST AS STRANGE AS FICTION WHEN IT COMES TO OUR NEAREST NEIGHBOR, **MARS!**

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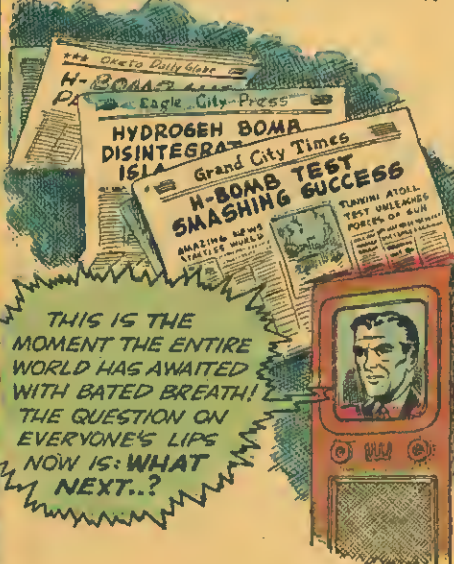


THERE ISN'T A MAN, WOMAN, OR CHILD ON EARTH WHO DOESN'T THRILL TO THE FABULOUS EXPLOITS OF THAT INCREDIBLE CRUSADER FROM ANOTHER WORLD, LARS OF MARS! BUT HOW DID HE EVER GET TO EARTH? WHAT IS THE REAL INSIDE STORY OF HOW HE FIGHTS THE DREAD FORCES OF EVIL WITH SCIENTIFIC MEANS? HERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, IS THAT AMAZING STORY IN FULL... THE TRUE, ASTOUNDING FACTS BEHIND THE BREATHLESSLY EXCITING CAREER OF... **LARS OF MARS!**

OUR STORY BEGINS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC... WITH AN EARTH-SHAKING EXPLOSION OF AN H-BOMB, THE MOST GIGANTIC ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION "HUMANITY" HAS EVER UNLEASHED!

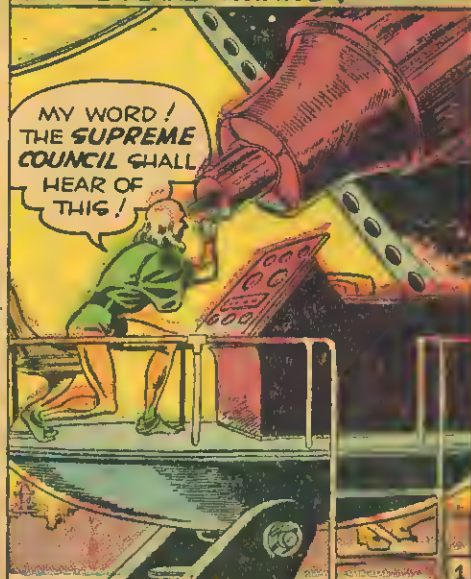


THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT NOT ONLY ELECTRIFIES THE EARTH...



THIS IS THE MOMENT THE ENTIRE WORLD HAS AWAITED WITH BATED BREATH! THE QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S LIPS NOW IS: WHAT NEXT..?

...BUT A CELESTIAL OBSERVER ON THE PLANET MARS!



A HASTILY SUMMONED MEETING OF THE MARTIAN SUPREME COUNCIL.

THERE CAN BE ABSOLUTELY NO QUESTION ABOUT IT! THAT EXPLOSION ON THE PLANET EARTH WAS SO GIGANTIC, IT **MUST** HAVE BEEN AN **H-BOMB!**



THIS IS **TERRIBLE!** IT MAY MEAN **INTERPLANETARY WAR!** MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, THE INHABITANTS OF VENUS TOYED WITH COLOSSAL WEAPONS! EVENTUALLY, THERE WAS A TERRIBLE SPACE WAR THAT ALMOST WIPED OUT BOTH MARS AND VENUS!



WE BARELY MANAGED TO CRUSH THE INVADERS! THE OUTCOME WAS THE MARS-VENUS PACT, IN WHICH INTERPLANETARY TRAVEL WAS **OUTLAWED!** NOW, HISTORY MAY BE ABOUT TO REPEAT ITSELF... BUT THIS TIME, WITH EARTH AS THE AGGRESSOR!

B-BUT...WH-WHAT CAN WE DO TO AVERT SUCH DISASTER?



WE CAN CALL ON THE SERVICES OF THE MOST DARING ADVENTURER OF OUR PLANET...

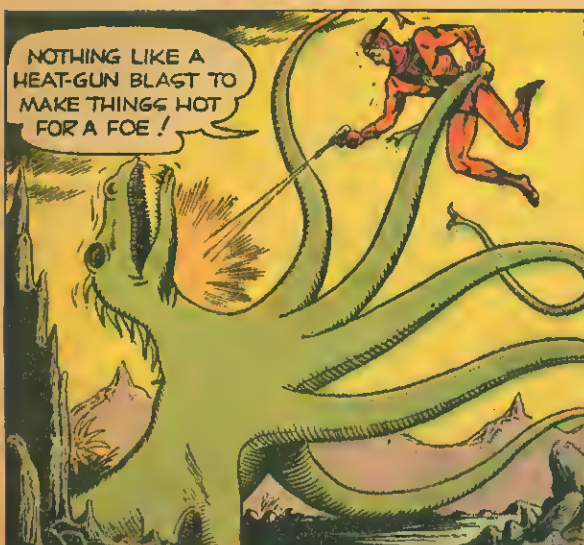
CALLING LARS OF MARS! DROP WHATEVER YOU ARE DOING AND **REPORT AT ONCE TO THE COUNCIL!**



REPORT AT ONCE TO THE COUNCIL!

HEAR **THAT**, YOU BIG HULKING MONSTROSITY? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO STOP CRUSHING THE LIFE OUT OF ME...SO I CAN **ROCKET BACK TO THE COUNCIL!**

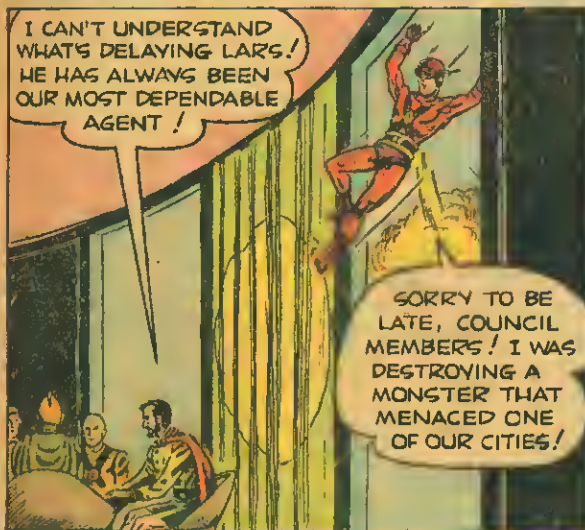




NOTHING LIKE A
HEAT-GUN BLAST TO
MAKE THINGS HOT
FOR A FOE!



NOW TO ROCKET
BACK TO THE SUPREME
COUNCIL AND LEARN
THE REASON FOR
THE DISTRESS
CALL!



I CAN'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT'S DELAYING LARS!
HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN
OUR MOST DEPENDABLE
AGENT!

SORRY TO BE
LATE, COUNCIL
MEMBERS! I WAS
DESTROYING A
MONSTER THAT
MENACED ONE
OF OUR CITIES!



WE'VE SUMMONED YOU ON A MATTER OF
INFINITELY MORE IMPORTANCE, LARS!
THERE HAS BEEN AN **H-BOMB**
EXPLOSION ON EARTH!

WHAT?



THIS MAY EVENTUALLY LEAD TO INTERPLANETARY
WAR... **UNLESS**... WE PLANT A PEACE-SEEKING
AGENT ON EARTH... **YOU!** AS YOU KNOW, WE
OUTLAWED INTERPLANETARY TRAVEL AFTER
THE MARS-VENUS WAR! BUT NOW WE'RE
GOING TO VIOLATE THAT BAN!



A HASTILY
CONTRIVED SPACE-
SHIP AWAITS YOU!
YOU'RE TO GO TO
EARTH, AT
ONCE!

AFTER MY BRUSH WITH
THAT MONSTER, I WAS
PLANNING A VACATION
TRIP! BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT
TO TRAVEL **SEVERAL**
MILLION MILES!

AN H-BOMB
EXPLOSION ON
EARTH...AND I'M
TO TRAVEL THERE
AT ONCE...ON A
SORT OF
INTERPLANETARY
PEACE MISSION!

YOU ARE TO ELIMINATE THE
POSSIBILITY OF INTERPLANETARY
WARFARE BY WAGING A CONSTANT
BATTLE AGAINST THE FORCES OF
EVIL ON EARTH-USING YOUR SUPER
INTELLIGENCE, AND ADVANCED
SCIENTIFIC, CRIME-FIGHTING
GADGETS, AS WEAPONS!



EXCUSE ME, GENTS!
THERE'S NO LONGER TIME
FOR WORDS! THIS CALLS
FOR ACTION!

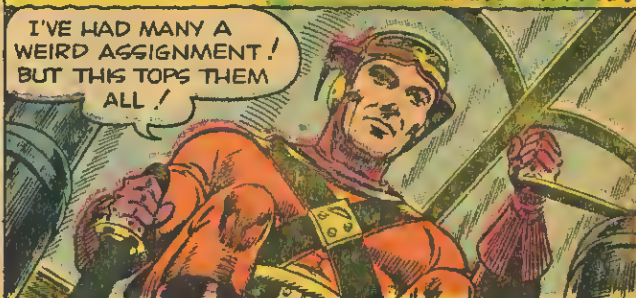


A BRAND NEW SPACE-SHIP, THE FIRST TO
LEAVE MARS SINCE THE BAN ON SPACE-FLIGHT
WAS CLAMPED ON AFTER THE DISASTROUS
MARS-VENUS WAR, HURTLES UP INTO THE
ENIGMATIC VOID OF OUTER SPACE.

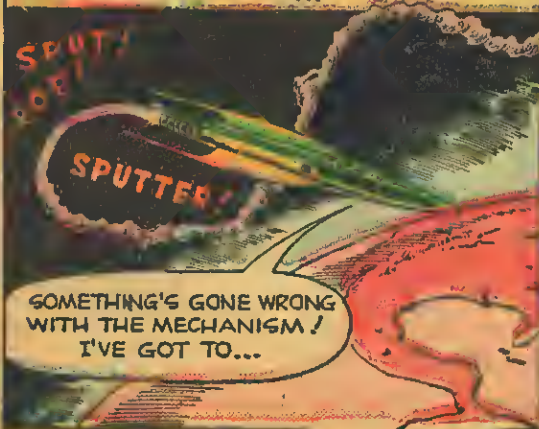


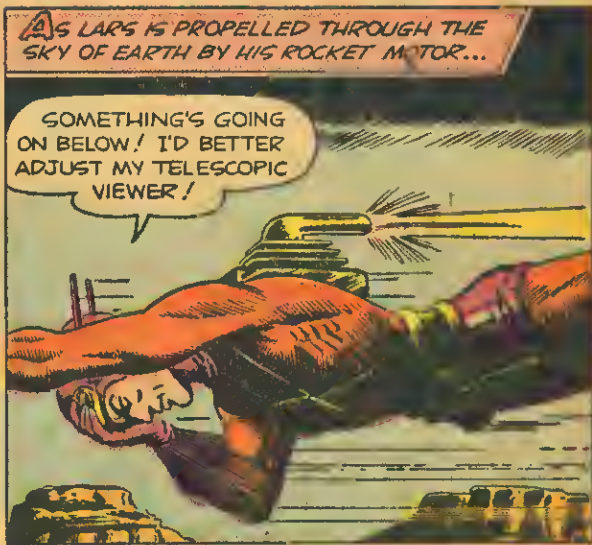
AT THE CONTROLS IS NONE OTHER THAN LARS OF MARS!

I'VE HAD MANY A
WEIRD ASSIGNMENT!
BUT THIS TOPS THEM
ALL!

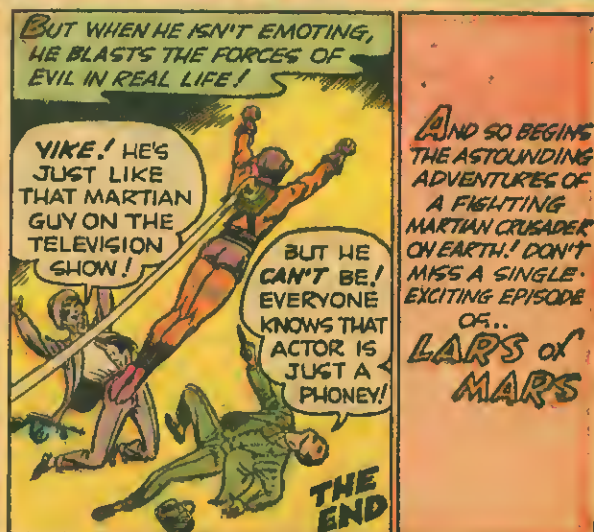
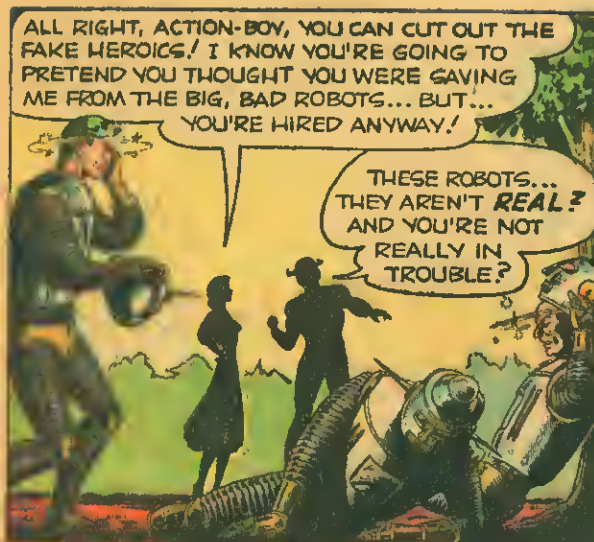


THE VOYAGE THROUGH SPACE SEEMS TO
LAST AN ETERNITY... LATER...AS THE MARTIAN
GLEUTH'S VEHICLE STREAKS DOWN INTO
EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE...





LARS' TELEPATHIC POWERS ENABLE HIM TO INSTANTLY UNDERSTAND ANY LANGUAGE...



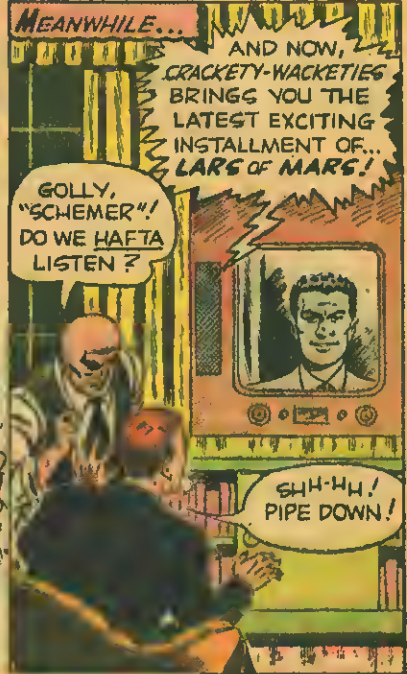
LARS of MARS



THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF THE "SCHEMER" BIXBY MOB...



WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A GANG OF RUTHLESS TOUGH GUYS, AN' WOT DOES THE "BRAINS" OF OUR MOB DO ALL DAY LONG? HE LISTENS TO SOAP OPERAS!





SOON.

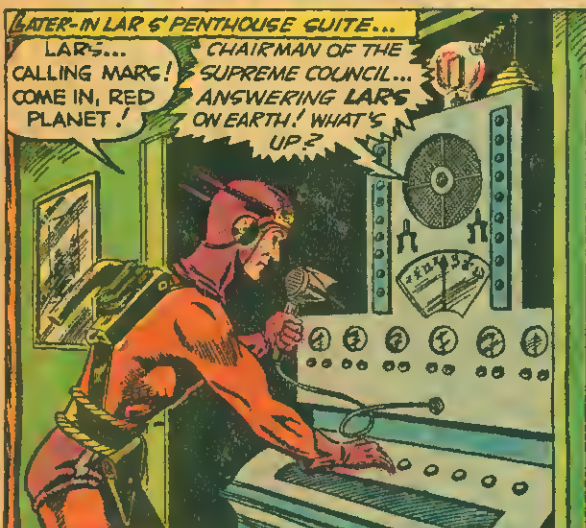
INTERNATIONAL TEL



WHAT A SITUATION! I'M REALLY A MAN FROM MARS... YET NO ONE BELIEVES IT! AND SINCE I'VE GOT THIS JOB PORTRAYING A MARTIAN ON TELEVISION, EVERYONE JUST LAUGHS AT THE IDEA!

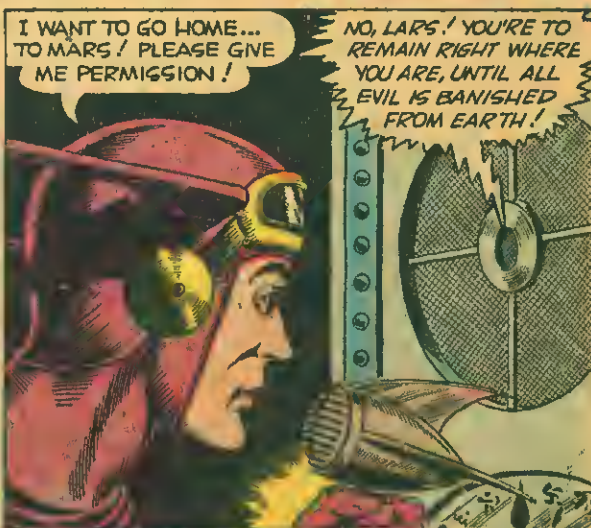


I'VE STOOD ENOUGH OF THIS! I'M GOING TO CALL MARS RIGHT NOW! I'LL QUIT THIS OBNOXIOUS ASSIGNMENT!



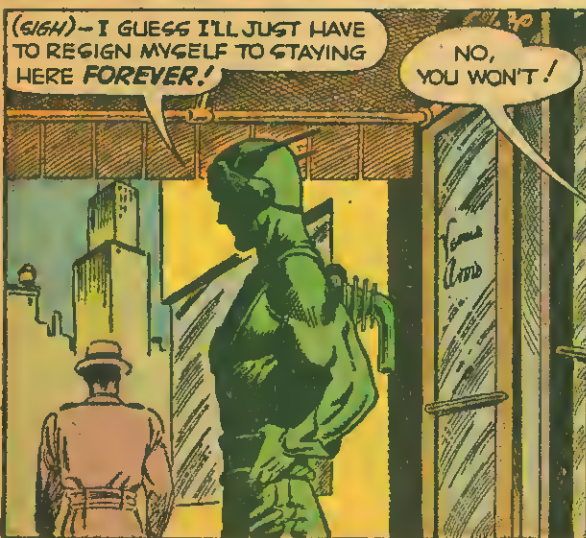
LARS... CALLING MARS! COME IN, RED PLANET!

CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL... ANSWERING LARS ON EARTH! WHAT'S UP?



I WANT TO GO HOME... TO MARS! PLEASE GIVE ME PERMISSION!

NO, LARS! YOU'RE TO REMAIN RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, UNTIL ALL EVIL IS BANISHED FROM EARTH!



(SIGH)—I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO RESIGN MYSELF TO STAYING HERE FOREVER!

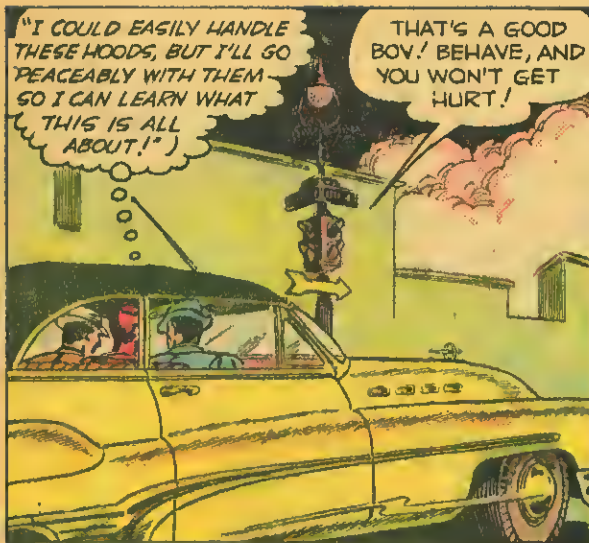
NO, YOU WON'T!



YOU'RE COMING WITH US, MARS-BOY!

ULP?! THAT LOOKS LIKE A REAL GUN!

THAT'S JUST WHAT IT IS! GET IN!



"I COULD EASILY HANDLE THESE HOODS, BUT I'LL GO PEACEABLY WITH THEM—SO I CAN LEARN WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT."

THAT'S A GOOD BOY! BEHAVE, AND YOU WON'T GET HURT!



HERE HE IS, BOSS... MR. LARS OF MARS, HIMSELF!

THIS IS A PLEASURE!

I RECOGNIZE YOU! YOU'RE "SCHEMER" BIXBY... GANG LEADER WANTED BY THE POLICE!



LARS OF MARS! IMAGINE ME MEETING YOU! I'VE FAITHFULLY FOLLOWED YOUR ADVENTURES ON TELEVISION FOR WEEKS! THE WAY YOU CLEAN UP YOUR ENEMIES IS SOME SIGHT!

YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT THE THEME OF MY TELEVISION SHOW IS THAT CRIME DOESN'T PAY!



EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THIS TALK OF YOUR BEING A REAL MAN FROM MARS IS JUST PUBLICITY NONSENSE, BUT I GOT AN IDEA...



SUPPOSE EVERYONE THOUGHT YOU REALLY WERE FROM MARS... AND WERE A CROOK! THEY'D BE PLENTY SCARED, WOULDN'T THEY?

I IMAGINE THEY WOULD BE!



IN FACT THEY'D BE SO SCARED, THEY'D BE AFRAID TO PUT UP MUCH OPPOSITION!

THERE'S ONLY ONE FLAW IN YOUR REASONING!



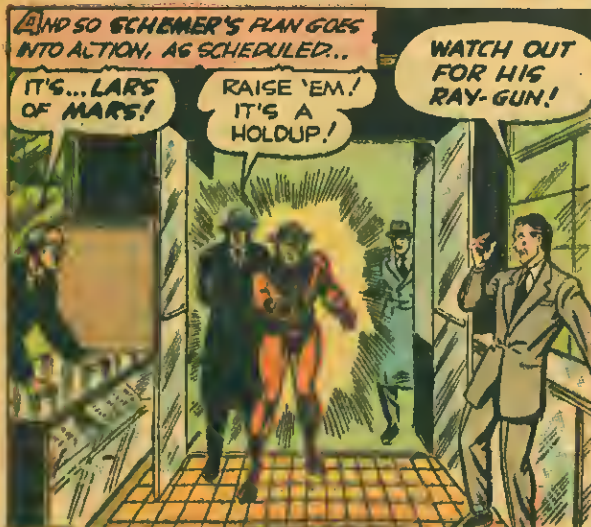
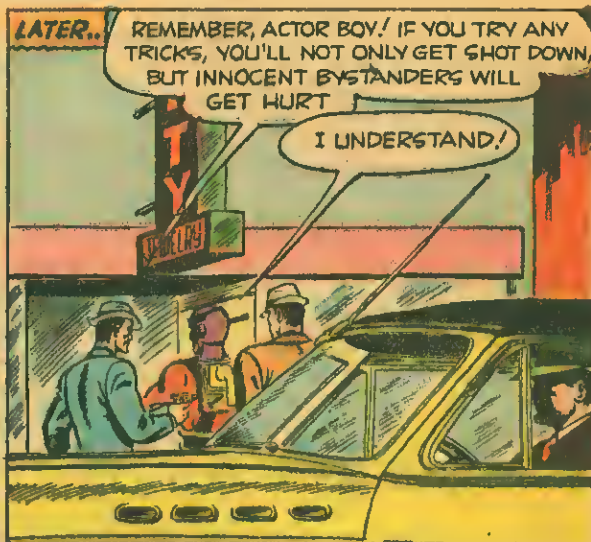
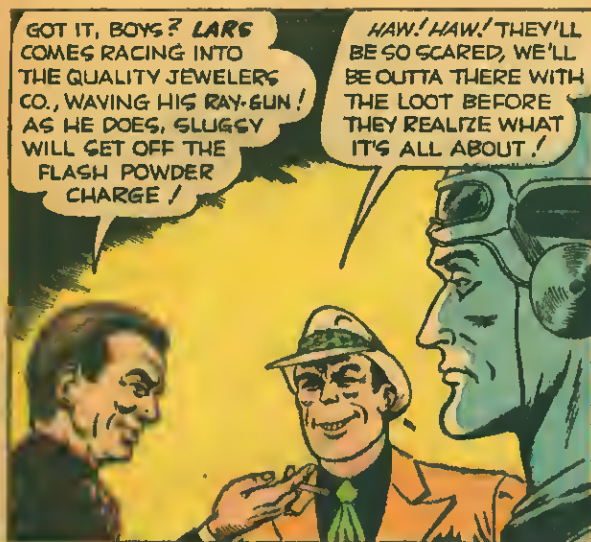
I'M NOT FROM MARS, AND I WON'T BE A PARTY TO ANY WRONGDOING!

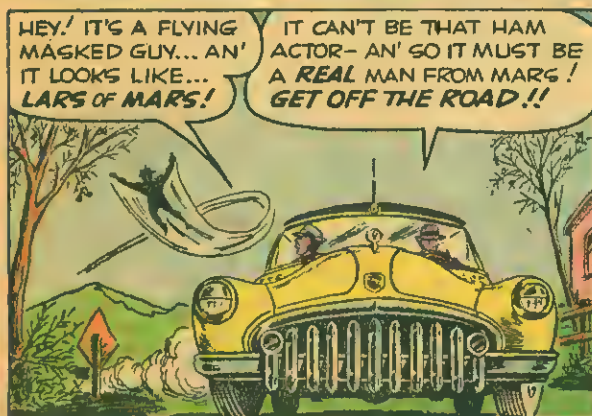
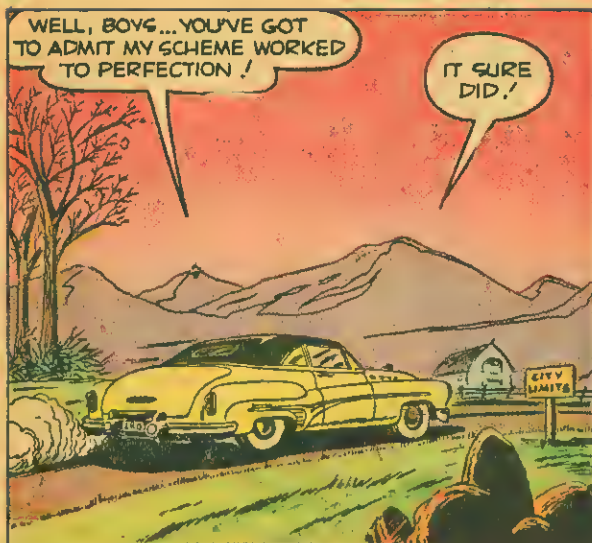
THERE'S ONLY ONE FLAW TO YOUR ARGUMENT!



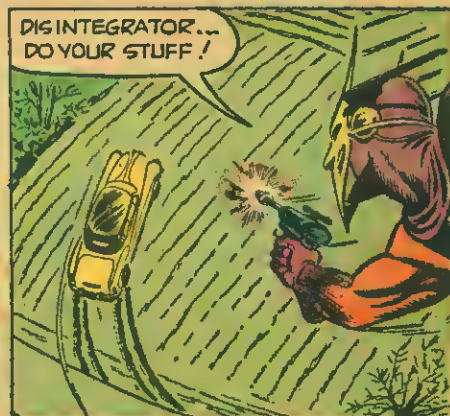
THIS IS A GUN! UNLESS YOU AGREE TO PLAY BALL WITH THE BOYS 'N' ME, YOU'RE GOING TO GET A BULLET IN THE HEAD!

ON SECOND THOUGHT, I RECONSIDER! ("WHY NOT PLAY ALONG? I'LL TURN THE TABLES ... WHEN I'M READY!")





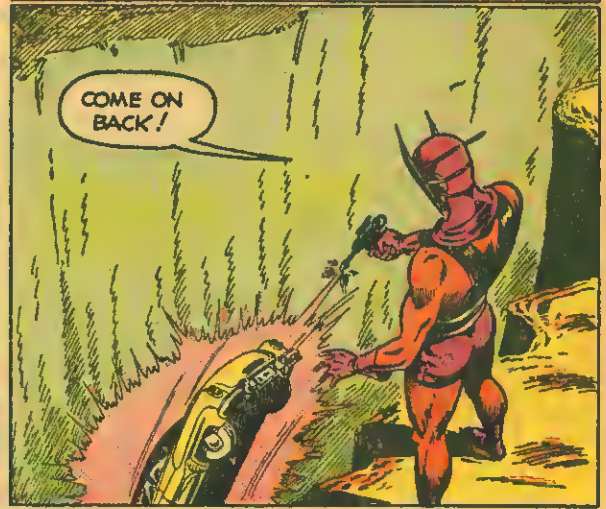
BUT AS THE VEHICLE SEEK'S TO ESCAPE ACROSS A FIELD, LAR'S ACTS!



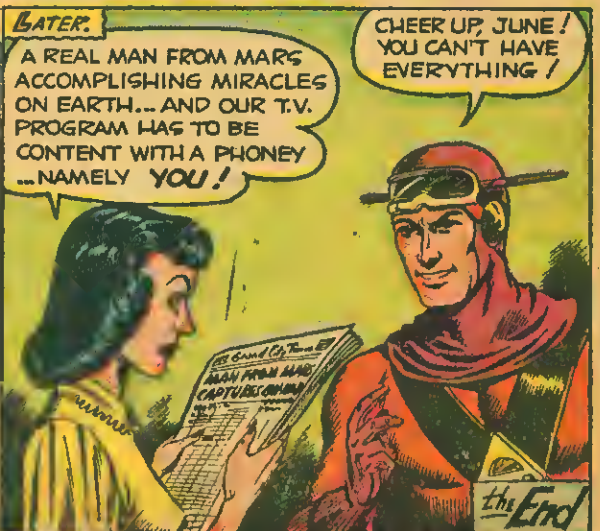
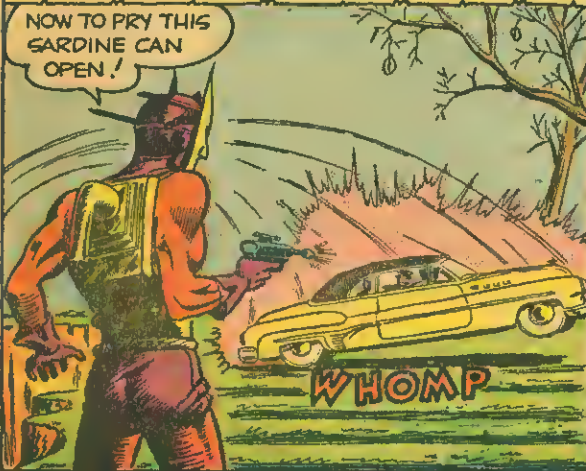
AS THE AUTO PLUNGES INTO THE ABYSS...



...THE MAN FROM MARS PERFORMS A MIRACULOUS FEAT!



LARS' RAY-GUN'S POWERFUL MAGNETIC RAY DRAWS THE VEHICLE BACK TO SAFETY!



THE BOOMERANG

"Excellency, the bomb is ready! Soon now, we will blast the first of the democratic capitals out of existence!"

There was pride and triumph in the smile and in the sharp salute of the heavily-medalled man as he stood before the desk of the mustached man behind it. The General brought his saluting arm down, and chuckled.

"It is the perfect way to wage war, Excellency! Our mathematicians have worked things out so perfectly that we merely press a button, and the master bomb shoots from its cradle. When it comes down—"

The Dictator interrupted, slapping his palms together to make a loud sound. "When it comes down—pouff! One of the greatest cities in the democratic world will be wiped out of existence! Am I right, General?"

The General was a diplomat. He bowed, smirking. "You are always right, Excellency. I have taken the liberty of inviting scientist-comrade Chelikoff to ride with us. He will explain the more technical aspects so that as your Excellency presses the release button, you will understand thoroughly what a mighty triumph this is for our kind of government!"

The Dictator got to his feet and walked with the General to the door, and then through a heavily polished marble corridor toward huge bronze gates at the end of the long hall. They walked with a conscious arrogance. They were rulers here. They lorded it over the common man they professed to love. Soon they would have many millions more to rule. The democracies had many men, waiting to be enslaved when the bomb fell.

The General said, "Perhaps we will have to drop a few more, after this first bomb. They are stubborn people, the enemy. They fight too well. Remember the manner in which they fought and won a two-front war? No other country could have done it."

His Excellency scowled blackly. "I do not forget! That is why I am so anxious to press the release button that will hurl the first of our tremendous K-bombs at their finest city!"

The scientist, Chelikoff, was waiting at the big black car for them. He bowed as the Dictator came down the steps. They entered the limousine, and

settled back as the big car purred onto the road.

His Excellency said, "This K-bomb, Chelikoff. It is three atom bombs in one, is it not?"

"In a way, Highness. It is one hydrogen bomb linked with two ordinary U-235 bombs. At a certain height above the target, the main bomb opens. The H-bomb, or hydrogen bomb, falls straight on. The other two move off at a tangent. The K-bomb covers an area three times as great as heretofore known."

The Dictator brooded as the car whirled him through the outskirts of the city toward the great level plain where the launching cradle and wonden dais, and seats for one hundred thousand people, had been built. More than two hundred thousand would be there. The Dictator's secret police had seen to that! No man or woman who cared what happened to him would miss this event! The finest brains of the State, both in science and the arts, with high-ranking military and naval men grouped on the dais, would make this a memorable day in the State's history. The Dictator felt a warm glow go through him as he thought of all this.

He asked, "This K-bomb will make a big hole?"

Chelikoff laughed politely. "The biggest hole in the entire Earth! Fifty miles across, a mile deep—at least!"

His Excellency sat back, well satisfied, a little smile twisting his heavy lips. Every once in a while he repeated, "A big hole! Fifty miles around! One mile deep!" The K-bomb would kill seven million people when it went off. The horror that would hit the democratic states would sweep the earth!

"Then," said His Excellency, "we and our way of life shall rule the entire world!"

The car moved through lanes of silent people, toward a great wooden platform constructed around a tall, glittering steel cylinder that towered high above the flat meadow. Sporadic cheering burst into a concentrated roar as the secret police began to stir restlessly and finger their gun-butts and riot clubs. His Excellency listened to the cheers with a satisfied smile on his thick lips.

He said: "They will be the rulers of the world, those people cheering me."

Chelikoff grinned knowingly at the Dictator. He said: "They will be the rulers, Excellency?"

The Dictator's smile was an evil thing. "You understand me, eh, Chelikoff?"

"Yes, Your Excellency. You and I are the same kind. We both know that our State exists only on fear and terror. The people are nothing."

The Dictator sighed, "Unfortunately that is true, Chelikoff. These cheering fools down there are only cattle. Worse, they are cowards, who must be driven to their destiny."

"I know, Your Excellency."

"But enough of that, Chelikoff. There is work to be done. And by the way, Chelikoff . . ."

"Yes, Your Excellency?"

"Remember I am still the supreme commander. I decide who will ride to the top with me. Don't think that your position is secure, my friend. I hate smugness. You will keep working for the glory of the State, Chelikoff."

For an instant fright passed across Chelikoff's face. When the Dictator had spoken in this manner to others, they had disappeared mysteriously. Sometimes their bullet-ridden bodies were found in a ditch by an isolated road . . . and sometimes, they merely vanished . . . the Dictator had his ways.

"I have never forgotten that I owe everything to Your Excellency and our beloved Motherland. I swear that I . . ."

The Dictator laughed nastily, "Enough, Chelikoff. Get on with the business at hand. I was only joking."

"At once, Excellency."

Chelikoff led the Dictator up a flight of steps onto a wooden platform shielded by great sheets of glass to protect the watchers on the platform from the rocket's blast.

For a moment the Dictator surveyed the complicated control mechanism of the rocket, peering through the glass enclosure. Then, impatiently, he turned to Chelikoff.

"Quickly now, explain all this." He said imperiously.

Chelikoff moved to his side. "The bomb is a great rocket, Excellency. It is fitted with many jets which will lift it high into the sky, to the rim of outer space. There, by automatic controls, it will level off and travel until it is directly above the target. It will then come down and . . ."

The Dictator drew back his lips in an animal smile. "It will make a hole, eh, Chelikoff? A very

big hole."

Chelikoff permitted himself the luxury of a laugh. "Yes, Excellency. A very big hole."

The Dictator seemed to relax for a moment. "It is a new kind of warfare, this K-Bomb. It ends a war before it begins. No one can stand against us. You did a good job, Chelikoff."

"I have tried, Excellency."

"Chelikoff," the Dictator said, "A man like you is valuable. I shall see that you get a richly deserved promotion after the launching."

Chelikoff beamed. "Thank you, Excellency."

The Dictator glanced at his watch. "It is time, Chelikoff. Where is the starting switch?"

Chelikoff pointed to a lever. "Here, sir. You pull this and the rocket is on its way."

The Dictator hesitated for the fraction of a second. Then with a resolute hand, he pulled the switch. The rocket bomb quivered, and with a mighty roar, powered by its many jets, took off.

Chelikoff turned to the Dictator. "It is launched, sir."

For a moment, the Dictator was silent. Then he faced Chelikoff. He said: "And now you will get your reward, Chelikoff."

With an expectant smile, Chelikoff turned to the Dictator. He was still smiling when the head of the State calmly shot him.

The Dictator looked down at the body of the dead scientist. He said aloud: "I can't trust a man like that. He is wise. Far too wise. How do I know that he'd never plot against me?"

He was alone with the dead man, when suddenly he heard the whistle of the rocket, as it descended at express train speed. It came down swiftly, very swiftly. It headed straight back for its launching cradle, and the Dictator stared with horror at the infernal device.

Chelikoff had been a brilliant scientist, but what he hadn't taken into account was that the bomb went up so high that the earth rotated under it. Since the earth rotates at 1500 feet per second, the rocket had to travel thousands of miles to catch up with the earth, and caught up at the precise spot from which it was launched.

The Dictator had time to scream, "DO SOMETHING CHELIKOFF! I COMMAND YOU!"

But a dead man can not obey. And the ensuing explosion left a big hole. A very big hole.

THE END

AMAZING ADVENTURES

NO. 3

COSMIC BRAIN ATTACKS U. S.!

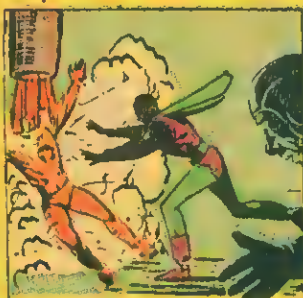
Diabolical destroyer "sneers" at deadliest known weapons! Can Scientist Brett Donaldson stop the monster?— or will the whole world meet withering doom before the terrible might of the — COSMIC BRAIN!



ON SALE APRIL 6

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

THE EVIL MEN DO
PRINCESS OF THE
FUTURE



ESCAPE ON A PLANETOID!

—thrill-packed story of brave freedom lovers who hope to start a new civilization on a distant planet! How can they elude the power-crazed tentacles of the master fiend who has enslaved the universe!

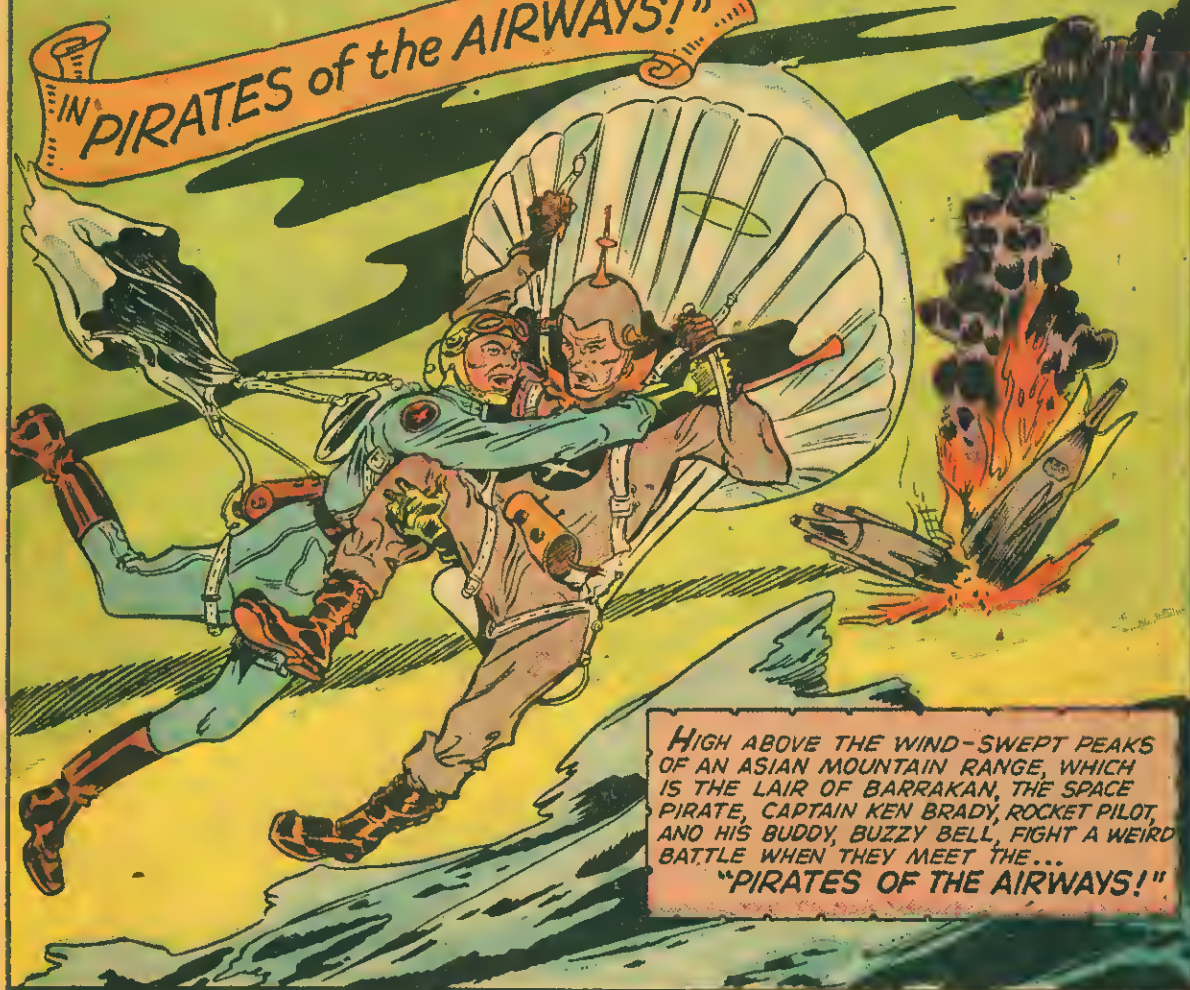
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CAPTAIN **KEN BRADY** ROCKET PILOT

IN **PIRATES of the AIRWAYS!**



HIGH ABOVE THE WIND-SWEPT PEAKS OF AN ASIAN MOUNTAIN RANGE, WHICH IS THE LAIR OF BARRAKAN, THE SPACE PIRATE, CAPTAIN KEN BRADY, ROCKET PILOT, AND HIS BUDDY, BUZZY BELL, FIGHT A WEIRD BATTLE WHEN THEY MEET THE...
"PIRATES OF THE AIRWAYS!"

CAPTAIN KEN BRADY AND HIS CO-PILOT PAL, BUZZY BELL, PACK IN PREPARATION FOR THEIR ANNUAL VACATION FROM TRANSCONTINENTAL TRANSPORT!

BOY, DO I NEED A REST! WHEELING THESE BIG ROCKET TRANSPORTS BACK AND FORTH GETS MONOTONOUS! IT'S ENOUGH TO DRIVE A MAN BATTY!

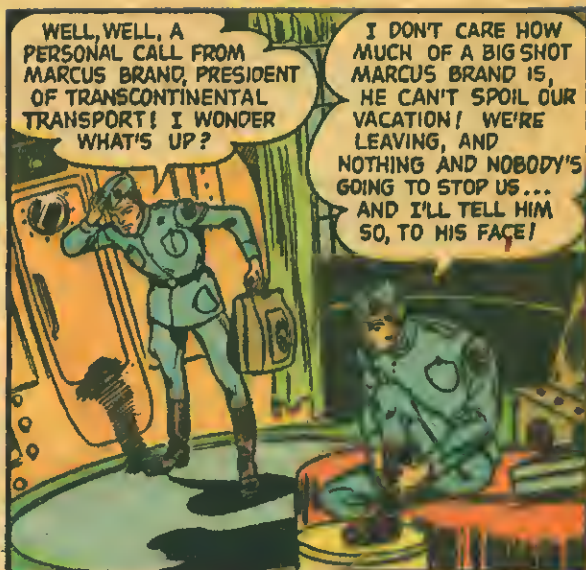
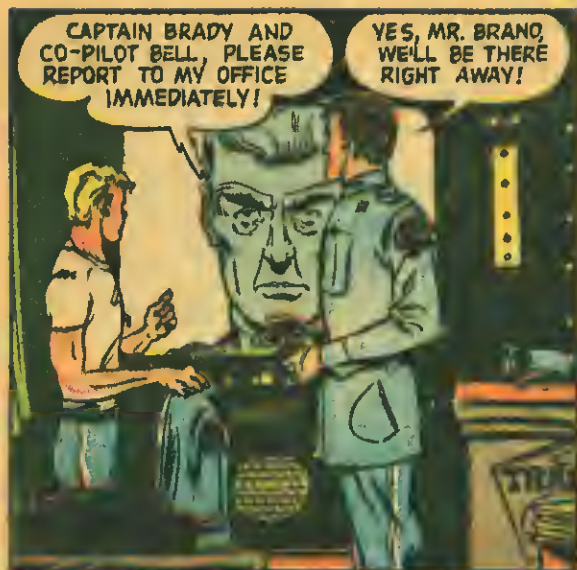
WHERE WE HEADING, KEN?



WE'LL HOP OFF FOR SOME OF THOSE LITTLE FRONTIER TOWNS WHERE THINGS ARE MORE LIKE THEY WERE IN THE OLD DAYS... WHERE A MAN CAN FIND SOME EXCITEMENT, ADVENTURE, FUN...

HEY, THE TELESCREEN IS RINGING!





WHILE CAPTAIN KEN BRADY CHECKS THE GIANT ROCKET TRANSPORT, AN ULTRA-HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO BEAM PIERCES SUPER-SONIC SPACE TOWARD A REMOTE MOUNTAIN RANGE IN TIBET...THE LAIR OF MITROS BARRAKAN, VICIOUS STRATOSPHERIC AIR PIRATE!



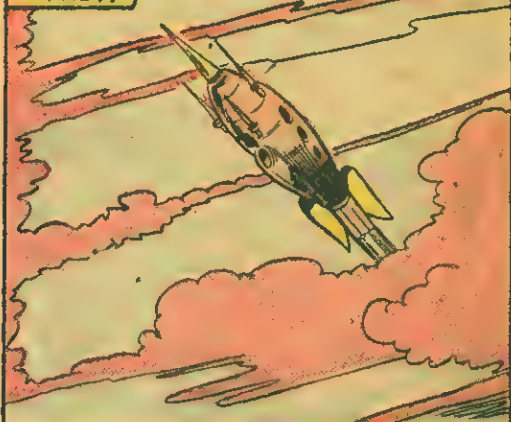
CAPTAIN BARRAKAN, A MESSAGE HAS JUST COME IN TELLING OF A VALUABLE ROCKET SHIPMENT COMING THROUGH TO ASIA!

GOOD! HAVE THE CREW BOARD OUR SHIP... WE

TAKE OFF IMMEDIATELY! YOU CAN GIVE ME THE DETAILS AFTER WE BLAST OFF!



MOMENTS LATER, THE PIRATE SHIP HANGS MOTIONLESS BEHIND A CLOUD BANK, LIKE A BLACK MONSTER READY TO POUNCE UPON ITS AIR-BORNE PREY!



HERE IT COMES, CAPTAIN!

HAH, A LARGE TRANSPORT... EASY PREY FOR US! STAND BY TO GIVE THEM A BLAST FROM THE ATOMIC CANNONS!



SWIFTLY THE HEAVY LADEN TRANSPORT APPROACHES, THEN, WITH A SEARING BLAST, THE PIRATE ATTACKS!

WE'VE BEEN HIT! IT'S...

BARRAKAN! THERE'S HIS BLACK WAR ROCKET... COMING WITH ALL GUNS BLAZING!



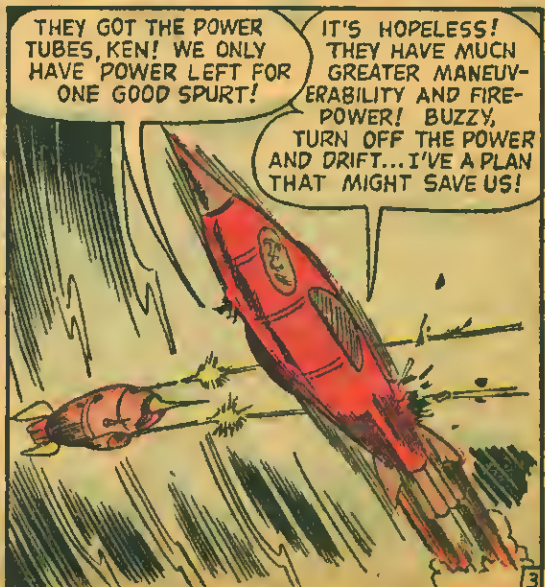
BUZZY, TAKE THE CONTROLS, I'LL MAN THE GUNS! JONAS, CALL BASE AND SIGNAL FOR HELP!

I CAN'T SEND! THAT BLAST MUST HAVE WRECKED THE TELESCREEN TUBES!



THEY GOT THE POWER TUBES, KEN! WE ONLY HAVE POWER LEFT FOR ONE GOOD SPURT!

IT'S HOPELESS! THEY HAVE MUCH GREATER MANEUVERABILITY AND FIRE-POWER! BUZZY, TURN OFF THE POWER AND DRIFT... I'VE A PLAN THAT MIGHT SAVE US!



DISABLED, THE TRANSPORT DRIFTS, BUOYED UP BY ITS VACUUM TANKS, AND THE BLACK PIRATE DARTS ABOUT, HERDING IT LIKE A SHEPHERD HERDS HIS FLOCK!

BUZZY, STEER THE SHIP EXACTLY WHERE THAT BLACK VULTURE WANTS YOU TO! I'VE A HUNCH HE'S HERDING US TOWARD HIS HEADQUARTERS!

WHAT'S THIS PLAN YOU HAVE, BRADY?



YOUR BROTHER HAS BEEN HIT TIME AND AGAIN BY THESE PIRATES! I PLAN TO DESTROY THEM BY RAMMING AS SOON AS WE KNOW WHERE THEIR HEADQUARTERS IS! THEY'LL CLOSE IN TO FORCE US DOWN, AND WE HAVE ENOUGH POWER LEFT...THOUGH THEY DON'T KNOW IT...TO SMASH INTO THEIR SHIP!

THEY'RE CLOSING IN NOW, TO FORCE US DOWN TO THOSE MOUNTAINS BELOW!



DON'T TRY TO RAM THEM... DO AS THEY WISH, OR I'LL BLAST BRADY WITH MY RAY GUN...DO YOU HEAR ME, BELL?

WHAT'S THE IDEA, JONAS? WE WON'T GET HURT WHEN WE RAM THEM... WE'LL JUMP BEFORE THE SHIP HITS! WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE YOUR CARGO FROM THOSE PIRATES! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?



NOT MY CARGO...MY MISERLY BROTHER'S! I'M THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN SIGNALLING TO BARRAKAN ABOUT TRANS-CONTINENTAL SHIPMENTS! BARRAKAN AND I ARE PARTNERS! MY BROTHER OWNS THE COMPANY AND I'M JUST A PAID NAVIGATOR! WHY SHOULD HE HAVE IT ALL? I GET MY SHARE THIS WAY!



A NICE SCHEME, JONAS, BUT BUZZY AND I AREN'T GOING TO BE DEAD DUCKS TO HELP IT ALONG!

UGH!

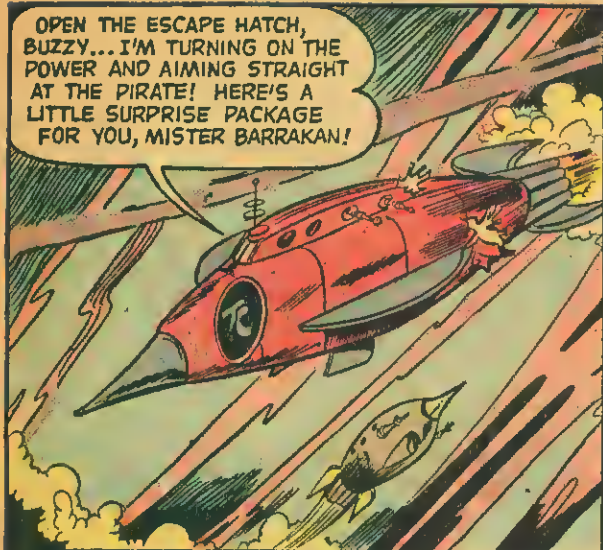


NICE GOING, PAL! THIS SKUNK'S OUT COLD!

HURRY THE 'CHUTES... AND PUT ONE ON JONAS AND SHOVE HIM OUT! THEY'RE CLOSE ENOUGH NOW SO I CAN SET THE SHIP ON AUTOMATIC AND BE SURE SHE WON'T MISS!



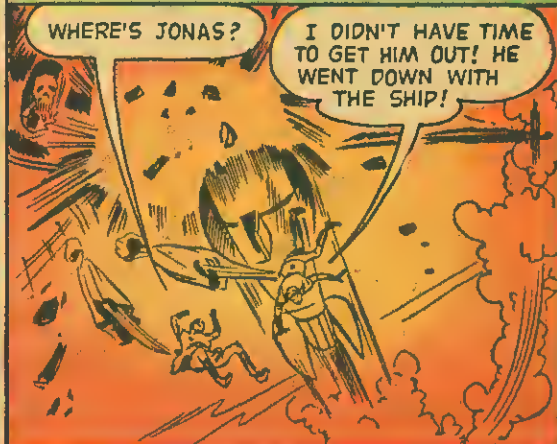
OPEN THE ESCAPE HATCH, BUZZY... I'M TURNING ON THE POWER AND AIMING STRAIGHT AT THE PIRATE! HERE'S A LITTLE SURPRISE PACKAGE FOR YOU, MISTER BARRAKAN!



THE DRIFTING HULK SUDDENLY MOVES, BLASTING WITH ALL ITS REMAINING POWER AT THE PIRATE SHIP... AND A SECOND BEFORE IT STRIKES, KEN AND BUZZY BAIL OUT...!

WHERE'S JONAS?

I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO GET HIM OUT! HE WENT DOWN WITH THE SHIP!

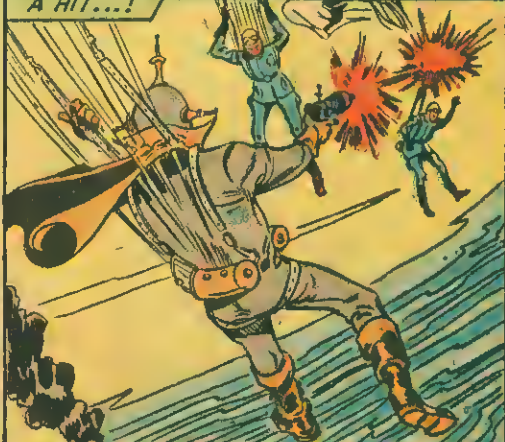


HEY, KEN, SOME OF THOSE PIRATES JUMPED IN TIME... AND THEY'RE SHOOTING AT US!

THEY'RE AIMING AT OUR CHUTES!



HIGH IN THE SKY, HELPLESSLY FLOATING, THE WEIRD DUEL GOES ON! THEN BARRAKAN, BELOW KEN BRADY, SCORES A HIT...!



HIS 'CHUTE USELESS AND IN SHREDS FROM THE PIRATE LEADER'S RAY GUN SHOT, KEN PLUNGES DOWNWARD!



THE ROCKET PILOT PLUMMETS TOWARD BARRAKAN, AND GRASPS DESPERATELY AT THE ONLY NEAR OBJECT IN THE IMMENSITY OF SPACE... BARRAKAN HIMSELF!



HAH, YOU SMASHED MY SHIP... KILLED MY MEN... IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO KILL YOU!

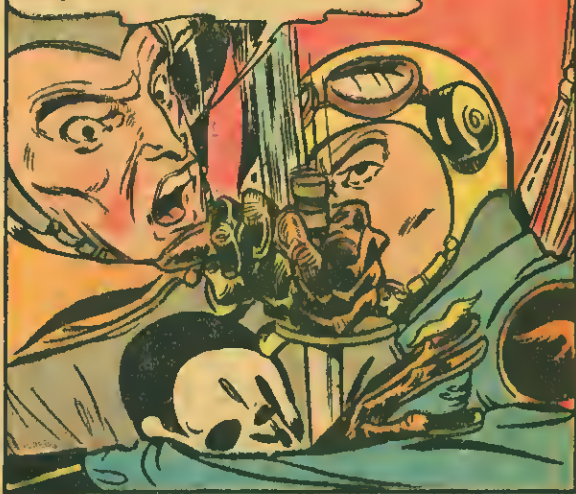
YOU WON'T FIND THAT AN EASY CHORE, YOU DOG!



EVERY FIBRE, EVERY MUSCLE STRAINING,
THE TWO MEN BATTLE IN SILENCE!



ARRRGHHH!



WHEW! I GUESS THAT'S ABOUT
THE CLOSEST I COULD COME TO
BEING KILLED—AND GET AWAY
WITH IT! AS BUZZY WOULD
SAY... THAT'S WHATEVER!



THE PARACHUTES FLOAT DOWNWARD, REACHING
GROUND CLOSE TO THE PIRATE'S HEADQUARTERS,
AND KEN QUICKLY ROUNDS UP THE LEADERLESS
FREE-BOOTERS, MAKING THEM CAPTIVE!

KEN, THIS SERIES OF CAVES IS
THEIR HEADQUARTERS! IT'S OUT-
FITTED LIKE A PALACE! THERE'S
A SENDING SET INSIDE, TOO!

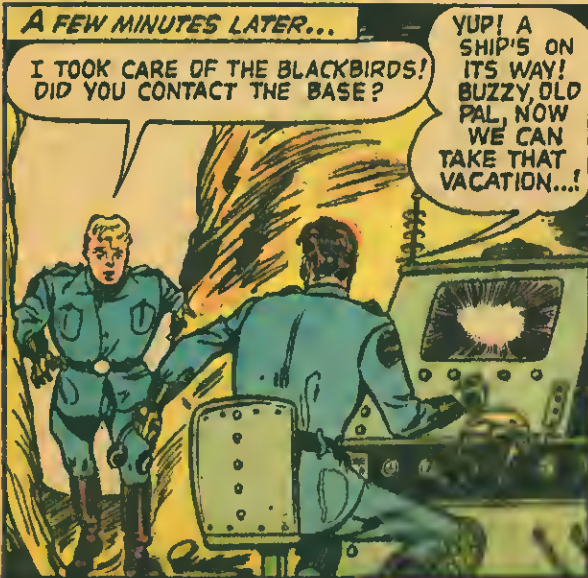
GOOD! BUZZY,
YOU TIE THESE
BIRDS UP WHILE
I CONTACT THE
HOME BASE AND
HAVE THEM SEND A
RESCUE ROCKET!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

I TOOK CARE OF THE BLACKBIRDS!
DID YOU CONTACT THE BASE?

YUP! A
SHIP'S ON
ITS WAY!
BUZZY, OLD
PAL, NOW
WE CAN
TAKE THAT
VACATION...!



...AND GET AWAY FROM THE
DULL ROUTINE OF ROCKET
TRANSPORT... FIND SOME
EXCITEMENT, ADVENTURE,
DANGER!

GET AWAY?
FIND SOME
EXCITEMENT,
ADVEN....!
SAY, WHAT DO
YOU THINK THIS
WAS WE'VE JUST BEEN
THROUGH... A SUNDAY
SCHOOL PICNIC?



THE END

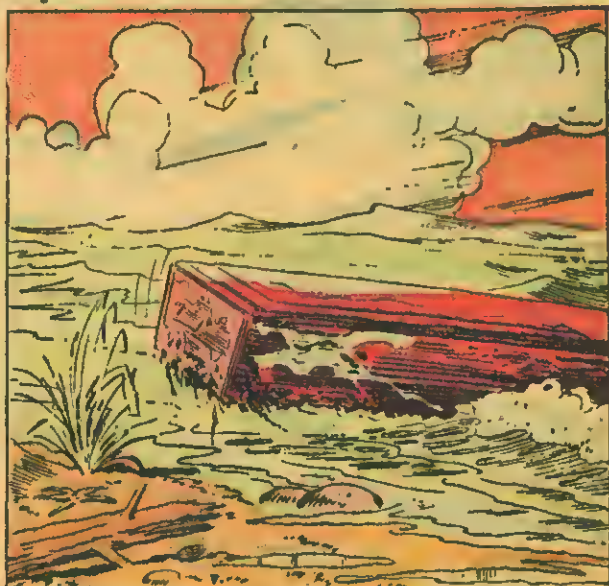
MODERN MIRACLES

MIRACLES ARE NOT RESTRICTED TO THE OLDEN TIMES, WHILE MOST EVENTS CAN BE EXPLAINED SCIENTIFICALLY, SOME GO UNANSWERED. THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES PROVE THAT THE AGE OF MIRACLES IS BY NO MEANS DEAD...



DURING WORLD WAR I, BRITISH INFANTRY, FIGHTING OUTSIDE THE BELGIUM CITY OF MONS, WERE SHOCKED WHEN A SPECTRAL IMAGE OF AN ARMOR-CLAD BOWMAN APPEARED ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE. THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE ENGLISH TROOPS WON A SMASHING VICTORY!

IN MARCH, 1924, FISH ACTUALLY RAINED DOWN FROM THE SKY ON THE SMALL AUSTRALIAN TOWN OF LONGREACH. THEY MEASURED FROM 1 1/2 TO 3 INCHES IN LENGTH.



CHARLES COGHLAN, AN ACTOR, DIED IN 1899 AND WAS BURIED IN GALVESTON, TEXAS. A YEAR LATER, A FREAK STORM WASHED THE CASKET OUT TO SEA, WHERE IT WAS CARRIED A DISTANCE OF 2,000 MILES TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND IN CANADA. IT WAS THE ISLAND WHERE COGHLAN WAS BORN!

LARS of MARS



EVERY SECOND COUNTS!
IF THE RED SPIES GET TO
THE ATOM BOMB PLANT
FIRST, THERE'S NO TELLING
WHAT WILL HAPPEN! I
MUST STOP THEM
BEFORE IT'S TOO
LATE!

AS THE FREEDOM-LOVING COUNTRIES
ON EARTH STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, A
NEW CHAMPION HURTLES EARTHWARDS
TO HELP THEM IN THEIR CAUSE!
HE IS LARS OF MARS, AND ALL
HIS SKILL AND COURAGE IS NEEDED
WHEN HE COMBATS...

"THE TERROR FROM THE SKY"

IN AN UNDERGROUND LABORATORY,
SOMEWHERE BENEATH THE SIBERIAN
PLAINS, AN UNUSUAL MEETING
TAKES PLACE...

LISTEN CLOSELY! YOU HAVE BEEN
BROUGHT HERE FOR A VERY SPECIAL
REASON. OUR BELOVED FATHERLAND
IS WILLING TO FORGIVE YOUR PAST
CRIMES AND RESTORE YOU AS
PARTY MEMBERS-- BUT WITH ONE
CONDITION!



NAME IT
PROF. ROGOV--
NO MATTER
WHAT!

IN A MOMENT. BUT FIRST LET ME
EXPLAIN THIS BOX. IT IS MY LATEST
CREATION AND CONTAINS AN
EXPLOSIVE SECOND ONLY TO THE
ATOMIC BOMB. WE PLAN TO USE
IT AS A SABOTAGE WEAPON AGAINST
THE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES!



EXCELLENT!

SO GLAD YOU THINK SO, VASLAV, BECAUSE THE CONDITION THAT I SPOKE OF CALLS FOR YOU MEN TO PLANT THIS BOX IN THE AMERICAN ATOM BOMB PLANT IN OAK RIDGE!

YOU MEAN THAT WE—



WHAT'S WRONG, VASLAV? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SMILE? DID YOU EXPECT TO BE GIVEN YOUR FREEDOM FOR NOTHING? ANSWER ME— DID YOU?

N-NO, PROFESSOR... B-BUT OAK RIDGE! I-IT IS ASKING—



UNGRATEFUL DOG!

Ow-My!



VASLAV WILL NOT EVEN BE GIVEN THE PRIVILEGE OF RETURNING TO THE SALT MINES! HE'S TO BE LIQUIDATED! WELL, WHAT ARE YOUR ANSWERS?



A MASTERFUL PLAN, PROFESSOR!

SHEER GENIUS!

GOOD! NOW FOR THE DETAILS!

I AGREE WITH BOTH!

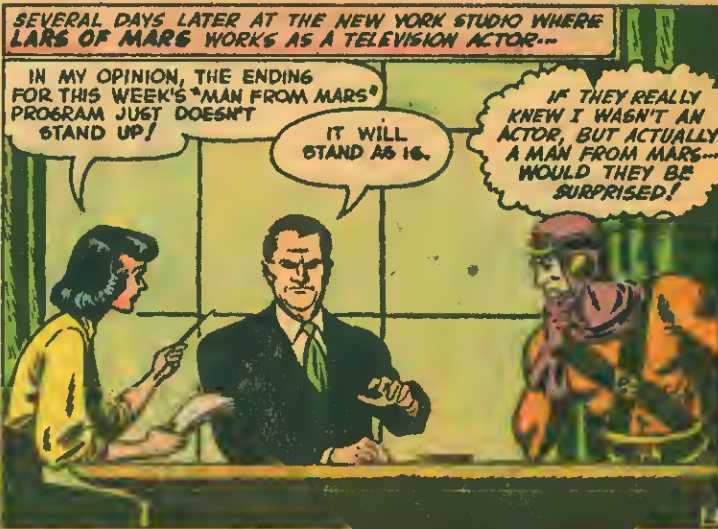


SEVERAL DAYS LATER AT THE NEW YORK STUDIO WHERE LARS OF MARS WORKS AS A TELEVISION ACTOR—

IN MY OPINION, THE ENDING FOR THIS WEEK'S "MAN FROM MARS" PROGRAM JUST DOESN'T STAND UP!

IT WILL STAND AS IS.

IF THEY REALLY KNEW I WASN'T AN ACTOR, BUT ACTUALLY A MAN FROM MARS... WOULD THEY BE SURPRISED!



SUDDENLY...

SEE HERE,
IS THAT INFERNAL
RACKET COMING
FROM YOU?

chickity...click...
click! click...click!

HOLD
IT!



REALLY NOW! IT MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE TO
US IF YOU INSIST ON WEARING THAT SILLY GET-UP
OF YOURS EVEN WHEN YOU'RE
OFF THE SHOW—BUT YOUR
HAMMY GAGS CAN BE CARRIED
TOO FAR. WE'RE TRYING TO
CONCENTRATE!

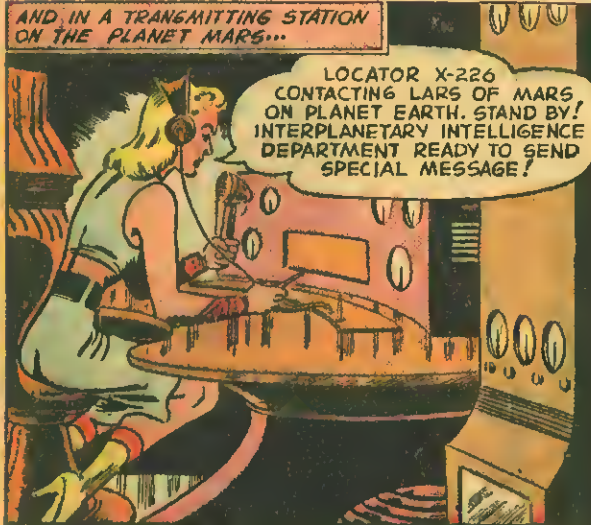
SO AM I!
SILENCE,
PLEASE!

CLICKETY
CLACK!

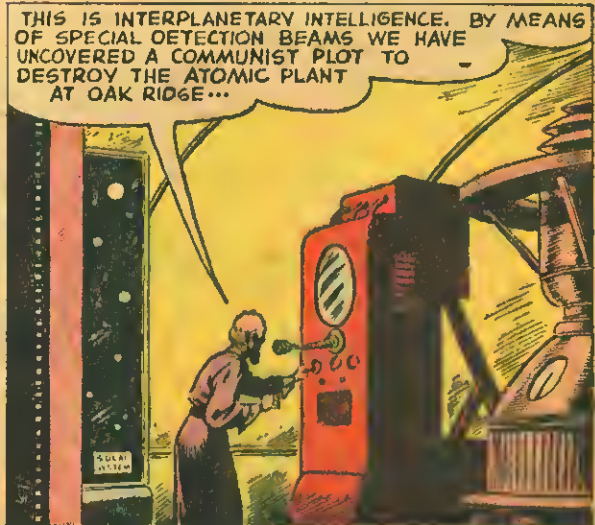


**AND, IN A TRANSMITTING STATION
ON THE PLANET MARS...**

LOCATOR X-226
CONTACTING LARS OF MARS
ON PLANET EARTH. STAND BY!
INTERPLANETARY INTELLIGENCE
DEPARTMENT READY TO SEND
SPECIAL MESSAGE!



THIS IS INTERPLANETARY INTELLIGENCE. BY MEANS
OF SPECIAL DETECTION BEAMS WE HAVE
UNCOVERED A COMMUNIST PLOT TO
DESTROY THE ATOMIC PLANT
AT OAK RIDGE...



...AT THE MOMENT, A HIGH ALTITUDE PLANE CARRYING
THE SPIES IS HEADED FOR THE AREA. YOU ARE
INSTRUCTED TO LEAVE FOR OAK RIDGE AT ONCE, AND
TO USE EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS TO SEE THAT THE
PLAN IS NOT CARRIED OUT... THAT IS ALL...



AND BACK AT THE T.V. STUDIO...

WHAT MADE HIM SHOOT
OUT OF THE CHAIR THAT WAY?

YOU KNOW
THESE HAM ACTORS.
ALWAYS TRYING TO
STEAL THE SCENES.
WELL, MAYBE NOW
WE CAN GET SOME
WORK DONE!



LARS STREAKS TO THE ROOF AND...

WITH MY JET UNIT SET ABOVE
SUPER-SONIC SPEED, I SHOULD
BE THERE IN LESS THAN
TEN MINUTES!



IN A BLAZING TRAIL
OF FIERY LIGHT, THE
MAH FROM MARS
SHOOT'S UPWARD INTO
THE HEAVENS...



STRUCK WITH WONDER, THE CROWDS MARVEL AT THE
STRANGE SIGHT HIGH ABOVE THEM...

IT MUST BE
A METEOR!

LOOKS MORE
LIKE A COMET
TO ME!

YER BOTH
NUTS. THAT'S ONE
OF THEM FLYIN'
SAUCERS!



MEANWHILE, AS THE COMMUNIST
PLANE REACHES ITS TARGET...

THE PILOT SAYS WE ARE OVER
THE PLANT NOW. I WILL GO FIRST,
THEN YOU, BORIS. CHEBOV WILL
FOLLOW. THE CHUTES WE CARRY
ARE MADE OF BLACK SILK, AND
THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO
SEE THEM FROM BELOW!

GOOD. LET
US HURRY
NOW!



IN SWIFT
SUCCESSION,
THE THREE
SPIES LEAP
FROM THE
PLANE, AND
AS THE MOTORS
DRONE INTO
THE NIGHT,
THREE INKY
FIGURES SLIP
SILENTLY
EARTHWARDS...

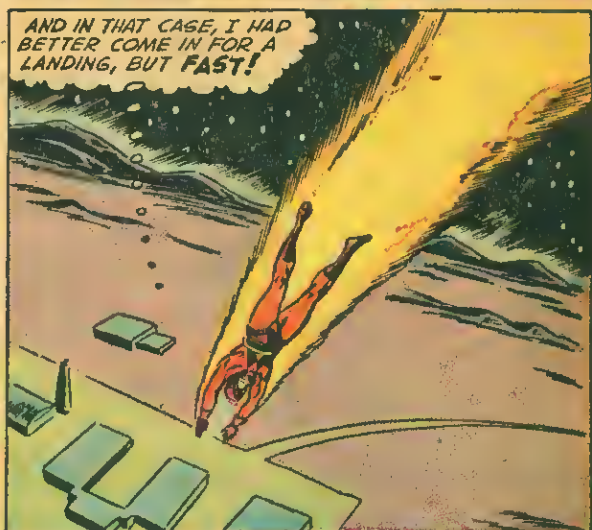
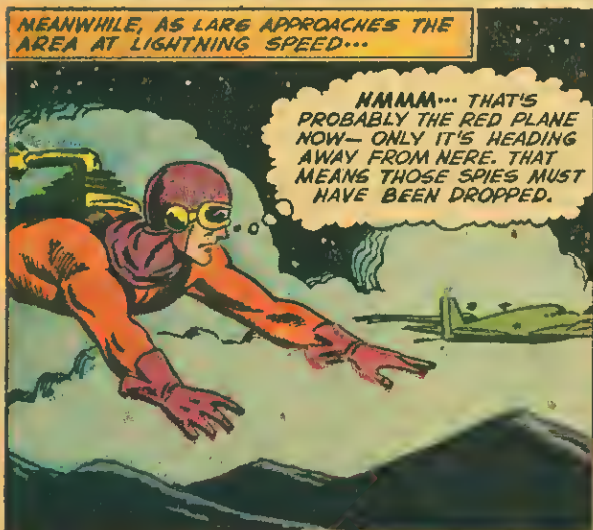
A PERFECT JUMP! WE HAVE
LANDED DIRECTLY IN THE CENTER
OF THE MAIN PLANT. HURRY AND
GATHER IN YOUR CHUTE. THERE
ISN'T A MOMENT TO LOSE!



SOMEONE IS
COMING THIS WAY!

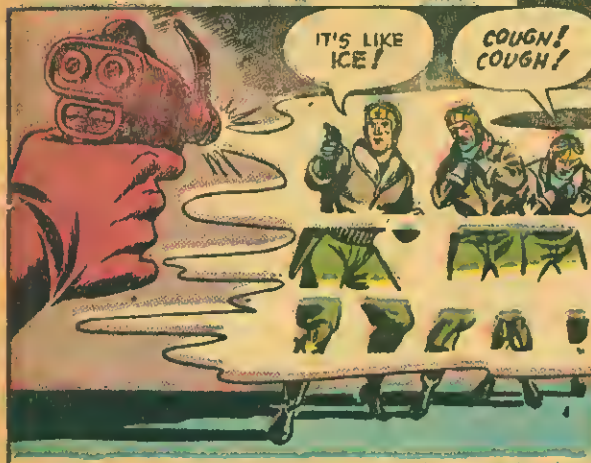
SHHHHH... NOT SO LOUD.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF
HIM IN JUST ONE
MOMENT!





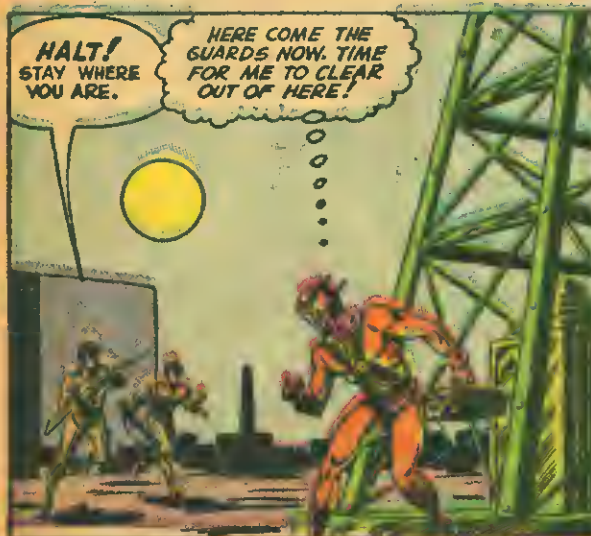


POINTING HIS MARTIAN WEAPON AT THE TRIO, LARS SQUEEZES THE TRIGGER...



IN ONE BLINDING INSTANT, THE STRANGE GAS SOLIDIFIES AND...

THAT SHOULD HOLD THEM TILL THE GUARDS GET HERE. NOW TO GET RID OF THAT EXPLOSIVE BEFORE IT GOES OFF!



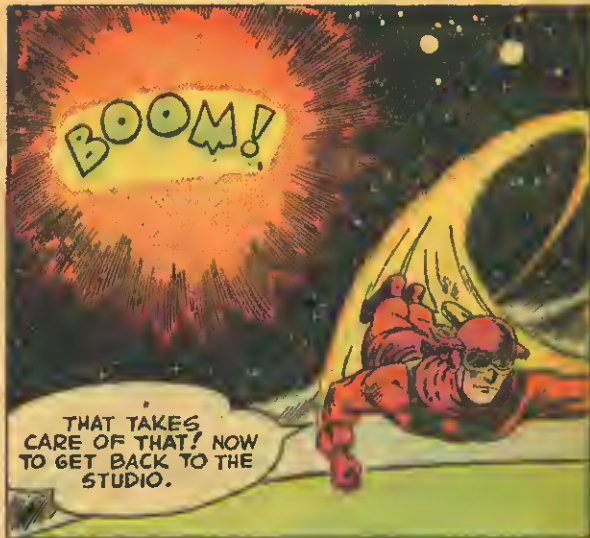
IN A MATTER OF SECONDS LARS OF MARS IS STREAKING THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE-- FAR ABOVE THE EARTH'S SURFACE--

THERE IT GOES-- WHERE IT CAN'T DO ANYONE, OR ANYTHING, ANY HARM!--...AND I'LL BE MILES AWAY, IN INSTANTS!



BOOM!

THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT! NOW TO GET BACK TO THE STUDIO.



SAY, WHERE DID YOU DIS-APPEAR TO?

I WENT OUT TO GET SOME AIR, BUT I DID THINK OF A SWELL FINISH FOR THE 'MAN FROM MARS' SHOW!



IT CAN END WITH THE MARTIAN MAN CATCHING A BUNCH OF RED SPIES, WHO ARE ABOUT TO BLOW UP THE ATOMIC BOMB PLANT AT OAK RIDGE. HE CAN COME FROM THE SKY AND--

ENOUGH, ENOUGH! HOW RIDICULOUS CAN YOU GET?



SUDDENLY...

DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST

FLASH? THREE RED SPIES JUST TRIED TO BLOW UP OAK RIDGE! THE GUARDS SAY THEY WERE TRAPPED BY SOME GUY WHO CAME DOWN FROM THE SKY!

WHA--?



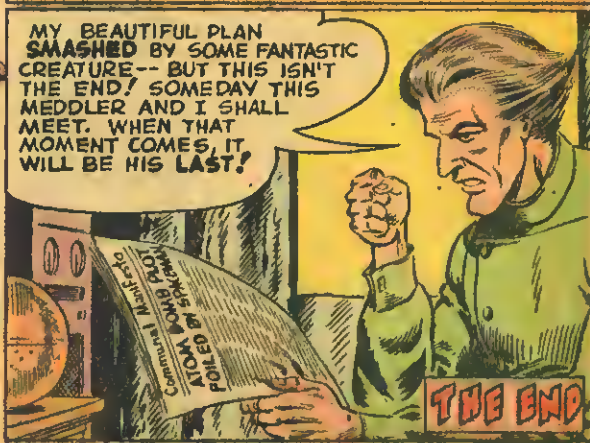
IT BEATS ME! MUST BE A COINCIDENCE!

??



FOR DAYS THE FREEDOM LOVING COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD THRILL TO THE ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE STORY-- BUT IN A CERTAIN UNDERGROUND LAB--

MY BEAUTIFUL PLAN SMASHED BY SOME FANTASTIC CREATURE-- BUT THIS ISN'T THE END! SOMEDAY THIS MEDDLER AND I SHALL MEET. WHEN THAT MOMENT COMES, IT WILL BE HIS LAST!



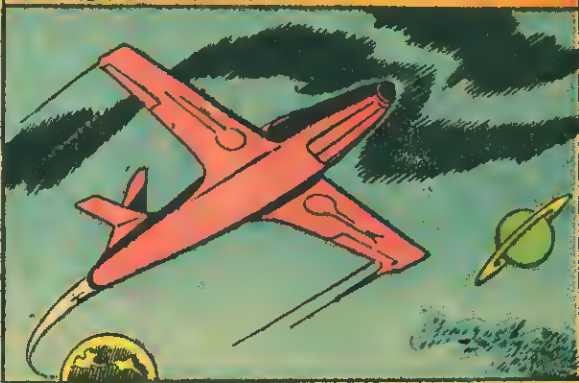
THE END

SOLAR FACTS

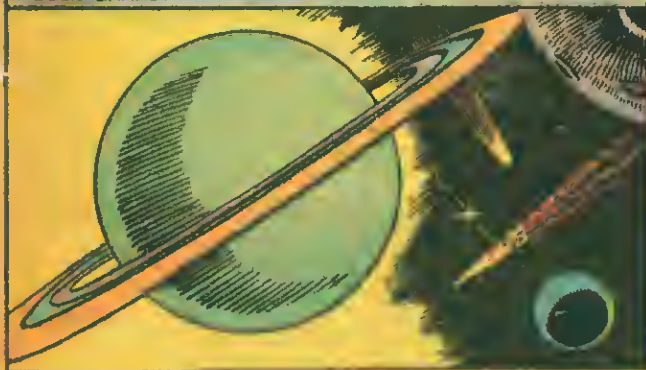
IN ANCIENT TIMES COMETS WERE GREATLY FEARED, BUT TODAY WE KNOW THEM TO BE HEAVENLY BODIES CONSISTING OF A HEAD AND A FIERY, GASEOUS TAIL THAT CAN REACH A LENGTH OF SEVERAL MILLION MILES.



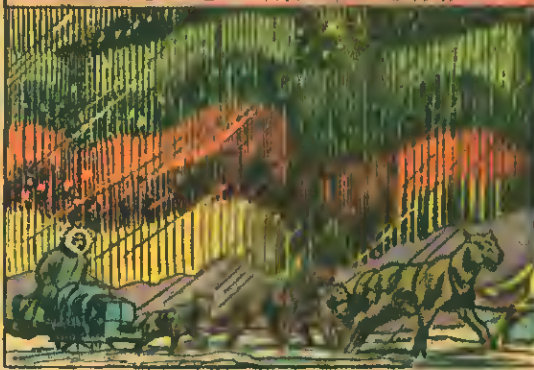
THE DISTANCES BETWEEN OUR EARTH AND THE STARS IS MUCH GREATER THAN WE THINK. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A PLANE COULD LEAVE OUR EARTH AND TRAVEL AT THE CONTINUOUS RATE OF 200 MILES PER HOUR, IT WOULD TAKE SOME 12,000,000,000 YEARS FOR IT TO REACH OUR NEAREST STAR...



THE PLANET SATURN, WHICH IS ABOUT NINE TIMES THE SIZE OF EARTH, IS BEST KNOWN FOR THE THREE RINGS WHICH ENCIRCLE ITS SURFACE. THESE RINGS ARE COMPOSED OF SMALL PARTICLES OF FLOATING DUST, BUT WHEN THEY REFLECT SUNLIGHT THEY GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF BEING SOLID BANDS.



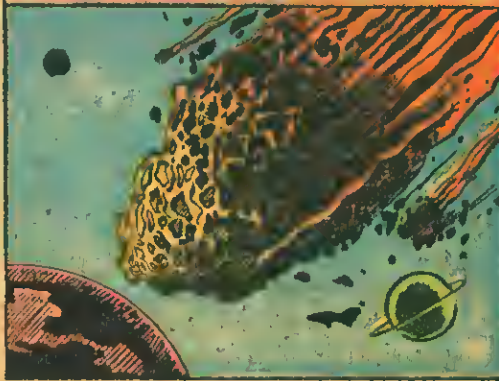
THE AURORA BOREALIS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN LIGHTS, IS A SPECTACULAR DISPLAY OFTEN SEEN IN THE FROZEN NORTH. SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THAT THE COLORFUL LIGHTS ARE CAUSED BY STREAMS OF ELECTRONS WHEN THEY EXCITE THE GASES OF THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE...



THE NEAREST HEAVENLY BODY TO EARTH IS OUR OWN MOON. IT IS ABOUT 239,000 MILES AWAY, AND REVOLVES ABOUT THE EARTH ONCE EVERY 27 AND 1/3 DAYS. THE ILLUSTRATION SHOWS THE SIZE OF THE MOON COMPARED TO A MAP OF THE UNITED STATES...



METEORS ARE USUALLY CALLED SHOOTING STARS, BUT THIS ISN'T TRUE. ACTUALLY THEY ARE FRAGMENTS OF COSMIC MATTER, RICH IN IRON AND NICKEL. WHEN A METEOR ENTERS THE ATMOSPHERE OF OUR OWN EARTH, THE RESULTING FRICTION TURNS THEM INTO BALLS OF FIRE!



WE GUARANTEE TO SAVE YOU MONEY!

YOUR MONEY BACK QUICK IF YOU CAN BUY FOR LESS ELSEWHERE



The Champion
Super Special Quality - a sure winner! Amazing! Real massive, manly! Solid Gold Color effect Big pseudo diamonds in centre flanked by 2 others. 4.95

The Ritz
Large 1 Karat Stone - real sparkle! Very low priced for quick sales. Refined, impressive, smooth Men - get this handsome ring now! Bargain! 1.98

Commando '5'
3 big, impressive Pseudo Diamonds of fiery brilliancy. Extra-heavy weight, natural Gold color, with \$750.00 appearance. Manly! Commands respect! 3.95

SHOCK RESIST WATCH FOR ACTIVE MEN



**BANG IT!
DROP IT!
THROW IT!**

NOW 7.97

The special, patented PROTECT-O-BALANCE feature every active man and boy has waited for. Now you can DROP IT, BANG IT, NIT IT and never worry. UNLIMITED GUARANTEE EXCLUSIVE OF PARTS - You never pay one red cent for skilled labor costs! Accurate Swiss jewel movement! Red Sweep Second Hand! Numerals glow at night. Rich looking silver color case. Unbreakable crystal. Modern design. Supply limited due to international crisis. Get yours NOW while you can. Special price ~~9.95~~ **7.97**



Double Cluster
Enchanting ring for smart ladies. 20 small Pseudo Diamonds imported from Europe are hand set in twin clusters. Very feminine... dainty. ~~9.95~~ **7.97**

Loyal Wedding Set
10 glistening brilliant diamonds to resemble diamonds featured in Loyal Wedding Ring set. Gorgeous gold color... fashionable! Compare both ~~19.95~~ **2.95**

Royal Peacock
15 Rhinestones in blazing rainbow hues: Ruby-red, Emerald-green, Sapphire-blue and Diamond-white colors. Exquisitely designed. ~~9.95~~ **2.95**

"ETERNAL LOVE"

Engagement and Wedding Ring Set



Something special and very pretty! Imagine - 12 sparkling Pseudo Diamonds, imported from Europe, set in a gorgeous Engagement and Wedding Ring Set!... NATURAL GOLD color, exquisite design. Your price for both - 4.89. Yet they look like \$750.00 and more! They sparkle a thousand rays of light! Enjoy a LIFETIME!

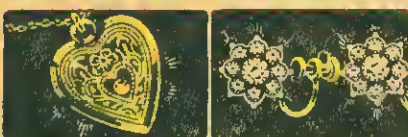
TRY AT OUR RISK!

You can't lose a penny. Try this gorgeous ETERNAL LOVE set at our risk. If not satisfied, we will return the price at once. Don't delay. Order a set today. Don't lose this opportunity. Remember - BOTH rings are yours for only 4.89. MAIL THE COUPON NOW

"THE ELDORADO"

Men's Distinctive Watch

"ELBORADO" - the watch for active men - last word in smart styling! Sparkling Pseudo Diamonds and Rubies set around the dial. Solid Gold color effect, chromed back. Unbreakable crystal. Luminous hands. Large sweep-second hand. Rugged case, built to take the "golf." Imported Swiss movement gives dependable service. UNLIMITED GUARANTEE EXCLUSIVE OF PARTS - never a penny for skilled labor cost! Formerly 24.95. Special SALE PRICE, only 9.95 - not a penny more. 10 DAY FREE TRIAL. Your money back quick if not delighted. RUSH COUPON NOW!



Genuine DIAMOND Locket
TERRIFIC VALUE! While they last, you can have this glamorous DIAMOND LOCKET at an unbelievably low price! Rich, solid gold color effect, gorgeous design. Max special frames inside. Two photographs of loved ones! Complete with chain, yours for 2.95

Starlight FASHION Earrings
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Men's INITIAL Ring

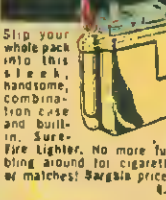


Your own INITIAL in Raised Gold color effect firmly set on a BLOOD-RED stone. Flanked by 2 sparkling pseudo diamonds imported from Europe. Ring made in 14 Karat Rolled Gold plate, very fashionably designed, rich in appearance. **WEAR IT WITH PRIDE!** Enjoy a lifetime. It's so handsomely masculine - so distinctive! Mention letter desired and send strip of paper for size. Bargain price 2.97

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